

Lafayette Chamber is 60 Years Old

By Sophie Braccini

“What you do is essential,” opened Mayor Mike Anderson as he proclaimed the sixtieth anniversary of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. “Sixty more years, even 120 more years would be too short. We need a big vision for the economic development of our town and you definitely have it.”

The celebration of the anniversary during the May 12th Lafayette City Council meeting was held in the spirit of cooperation and partnership. Council member Carol Federighi added, “The partnership you have with the city has made us what we are.”

Larry Duson, the present President of the Chamber and Director of Bank of the West’s Lafayette office couldn’t agree more. “The history of the relationship between the city and the chamber goes way back, to the early

days of incorporation,” said Duson, who speaks from experience as a repeat President. He remembered some of the most notable Presidents who did much for the Chamber: John Coleman, Dan Kelly, Anne Grodin, Scotty Loucks, Stacy Spell and Dennis Garrison among many others.

Steve Falk, Lafayette City Manager, is conscious as well of the key role played by

the Chamber in the success of the city. “The Chamber is responsible for so much of the progress we have made in the last fifteen years,” he says. He highlighted the important role that the Executive Directors have played. “The Chamber has been blessed by a string of great, visionary executive di-

made me look good!”

To most residents and businesses, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has long been known as one of the driving forces behind improvements in the quality of their community and for being a “cheerleader” for the city.

“Sixty years serving

Lafayette is a measurable milestone,” adds Lifson. “After all, who is the keeper of the maps, directories and information about Lafayette? The list of services and programs the chamber provides to help the community is extensive. We are happy to be here, assisting and representing business, promoting the community, and helping create a strong local economy. We are known as the ‘friendly chamber.’ We are always ready to help you.” Lifson is proud of the achievements of the Chamber that has

grown by over 150 new members in the past two years. The Lafayette Chamber is now the “biggest Chamber in a little city,” within the Bay Area.

“When things go wrong in Lafayette, it’s usually the City’s fault,” humorously concludes Falk, “But when things go right, it’s usually due to the hard work of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.”

60th Anniversary



Mayor Mike Anderson (right) gives the proclamation to Chamber President Larry Duson (left)

Photo Sophie Braccini

rectors. The organization simply wouldn’t be where it is today without Jay Lifson or Ann Denny.”

Jay Lifson has been the Executive Director for many years, and recognizes what he owes to his predecessor. “Ann Denny, who was the Executive Director for nearly 15 years, gave this organization leadership and direction. I was lucky enough to follow Ann. She